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SAVE OUR RIVERS

***1999 Land Acquisition
& Management Plan***

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



Visit the District's web site at
sfwmd.gov
for additional information.

Front Cover: Loxahatchee River
Back Cover: Lake Russell
Management Unit

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LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN MESSAGE

As the State of Florida celebrates conservation of the one-millionth acre of land under Preservation 2000 (P-2000), the South Florida Water Management District joins the celebration while also marking great progress in land acquisition and stewardship. With the protection of more than a million acres statewide under P-2000, Florida becomes the nation's leader in the conservation of environmentally sensitive land for future generations.

The District purchases and manages land under two programs—Save Our Rivers and P-2000. Save Our Rivers, created by the Florida Legislature in 1981, enables the District to acquire lands for water resource purposes and is funded by the state's documentary tax stamp. P-2000, begun in 1990, added additional funds to Save Our Rivers and has become the nation's most successful land acquisition initiative.

This year the District is completing acquisition efforts that have been ongoing for many years. Land acquisition needs for the Kissimmee River restoration are slowly drawing to a close. As part of this effort, the District was able to partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of State Lands [Conservation and Recreation Lands program (CARL)], to purchase the 46,000 acre Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem. It will be managed as the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve as a state park, and will soon formally open its gates so the public can enjoy the special beauty of this most unique ecosystem.

The District entered into several other partnerships that will greatly enhance the state's ability to conserve environmentally sensitive lands for those who follow, and will provide for effective and efficient management of the land and water resources. These include:

- Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem in Martin County, one of the most diverse and unique areas on the southeast coast—in partnership with CARL.
- Lake Walk-in-Water, in partnership with Polk County, more than 4,000 acres of pine flatwoods, hammocks, and wetlands along the shore of Lake Walk-in-Water.
- Polk County also assisted in the purchase of additional lands along Lake Marion Creek in the Upper Lakes Basin Watershed.
- Indian River Lagoon, with assistance from St. Lucie County, CARL, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purchase of old mosquito impoundments along Hutchinson Island are part of a plan to protect the lagoon in five counties under a program that also includes St. Johns River Water Management District.

The District's Save Our Rivers land acquisition program is a multi-purpose tool that preserves rare and unique resources, protects areas of special local interest, and prepares the groundwork for the water resource management needs of the 21st Century. As P-2000 draws to a close, we must concentrate in developing strong support for a revised program that will allow us to adequately address our critical "unmet" water resource development needs in the future. The CARL program, the water management districts, conservation organizations, and concerned individuals appreciate the importance of the renewal of the P-2000 Program by the Florida Legislature.

Samuel E. Poole III
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

As part of its mission, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) protects and manages the wetlands, lakes, bays, and rivers of south and central Florida. The District, a regional agency, is the largest of five water management districts established across Florida to safeguard the quality and supply of each region's water resources.

State law requires the water management districts to manage water and related resources for the benefit of the public. The mission of the SFWMD is to manage water resources for the benefit of the region, balancing the needs of the present generation with those of future generations. Equally important elements of this stewardship are the conservation and development of water supply, the protection and improvement of water quality, the mitigation of impacts from flood and drought, and the restoration and preservation of natural resources.

In 1981, the Florida Legislature created the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The trust fund receives revenues from the documentary stamp tax, which the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers.

The statute enables the water management districts to use the trust fund to acquire fee title or other interest in lands needed to manage, protect, and conserve the state's water resources. The act specifies an allocation formula for each district and the process for them to use the fund.

Preservation 2000, enacted by the Legislature in 1990, also added land-acquisition funds to the Save Our Rivers program. P-2000 created the Florida Preservation Trust Fund, which DEP also administers. Land acquisition with P-2000 money requires that projects meet criteria of both the P-2000 and the Save Our Rivers programs.

As part of its process in acquiring these lands, the District considers the property's management challenges, surface and groundwater systems, and the formation of corridors for the critical interaction of wildlife populations. In managing these public lands, the District ensures the maintenance of water resources, fish and wildlife populations, and native plant communities in an environmentally acceptable manner. The District also opens these lands for appropriate public use consistent with their environmental sensitivity. The District may contract with other government agencies and/or the private sector to manage lands and implement the appropriate stewardship plans and programs.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund of the SOR program and P-2000 shall be used to acquire fee title or other interest in lands necessary for water management, water supply and the conservation and protection of water resources. In addition, lands that include other features are eligible as well. These include, but are not limited to:

- River and stream flood plains and flow ways
- River and stream flood hazard areas
- Littoral zones
- Springs and lakes

- Aquifer recharge areas
- Wetlands
- Wellfields
- Unique water features

Each January, the South Florida Water Management District must submit to the Legislature and the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to requirements of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, an annual update to its Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan. The agency reviews Save Our Rivers applications from private and public groups, and staff considers other sites based on the District's strategic planning needs.

Land Evaluation Matrix

The District uses an evaluation matrix that addresses the water and natural resource values of each parcel. The matrix consists of the following 10 parameters:

- Water management
- Water supply
- Conservation and protection of water resources
- Manageability
- Habitat diversity
- Species diversity
- Connectedness
- Rarity
- Vulnerability
- Public use

Lake Russell Management Unit (ULBW)



In addition to the resource matrix, the District uses a project benefits criteria system to address projects that protect the integrity of ecological systems and provide multiple on and off-site benefits. This project's benefits criteria system applies to projects designed primarily to supply off-site water resource benefits. Thus, the District doesn't evaluate the environmental features of the lands themselves, as with the resource-based matrix, but it considers how these lands will be used within a described project. Examples for benefits provided by such lands would be:

- a. Distribution, detention and water quality treatment systems using managed or unmanaged wetlands.
- b. Groundwater recharge and/or water table control to allow recharge to aquifers or retain seepage from water storage facilities.
- c. Buffers or transitional areas necessary to protect core lands from adverse impacts, provide wildlife corridors, provide for public enjoyment of the core land, or isolate certain management practices, such as flooding and prescribed burning.

Approval Process for the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan

The District's Construction and Land Management Department receives and evaluates all Save Our Rivers project applications and boundary modifications. A multi-departmental evaluation team, made up of senior technical staff, review and score each project. The team makes Recommendations to the Construction and Land Management director, who circulates them for comment to each District department. Following District comment and widely publicized notification, public workshops are held in geographical locations represented by the new projects.

In July of each year, the staff presents the revised Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan to the District Governing Board in workshop session. Final Governing Board adoption of the plan is scheduled for September of each year at a public hearing.



LAND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Florida Resource Rivers Act specifically states that lands acquired with money from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be managed and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner and, to the extent practicable, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition and make them available to the public for appropriate recreational purposes. District activities directed at achieving this level of stewardship are part of the Stewardship program.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Land Stewardship Program is to plan and implement measures necessary for the proper management of land and associated water areas owned or controlled by the District. These lands generally include those acquired by the Save Our Rivers program and other large holdings not utilized for operational or administrative purposes.

As steward of District lands, the Program is responsible for their protection, enhancement, restoration, and preservation for the beneficial use and enjoyment of existing and future generations. A prime requisite in managing these public lands is to ensure that the water, fish and wildlife populations, native plant communities, and related resources are maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner and made available for appropriate outdoor recreational activities consistent with protection of the water resources.

The Program is primarily directed by the Land Stewardship Division with assistance from several other District departments, service centers and field stations. Considerable assistance in managing the lands is provided by other governmental agencies and volunteers through cooperative agreements. Where appropriate, the private sector is encouraged to undertake certain management activities through leases and concession contracts.

The Program's Mission is composed of six major functions:

1. Strategic, project, and management planning
2. Operation and maintenance of land resources
3. Development of public use programs
4. Development of restoration projects
5. Evaluation of management activities (monitoring)
6. Administration of land management service contracts

In the following pages, progress in each of these six major functions will be outlined.

Stewardship Report

The District's Stewardship program uses an adaptive ecosystem management approach with strong consideration for multiple use and renewable resources concepts. We seek and receive considerable assistance in managing our lands from both the public and private sector in funded, voluntary, and revenue-type partnerships.

Acquisition from October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998 added 35,837 acres. The program now includes more than 365,000 acres.

Program Resources

A variety of sources pay the District's land management costs. (See Figure S-1.) The principal source is the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. This state documentary tax stamp revenue totals about \$12 million per year for the SFWMD. Of that, nearly \$8 million is committed to covering the debt service on revenue bonds that were previously sold to increase the purchasing power of the SOR program. Funding sources other than the Trust Fund paid 50% of the program's operating costs in 1998. As a result of our policy to seek management partnerships, the District receives about \$1,700,000 per year in-kind services from the state (Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Division of Forestry and Department of Environmental Protection) as well as several local governments. These in-kind services equate to 29% of the total management budget for our current ownership. The remaining 21% of the budget is made of revenue from leases of renewable resources (\$532,000, 9%) and off-site mitigation funds (\$400,000, 7%). District assistance from ad valorem taxes is mostly in the form of administrative and managerial support. The total expenditures for FY 98 are estimated to be just under \$6,000,000 for 275,000 acres of managed land which is \$21.60/AC/Year. This average rate is similar to CARL land management budget. It should be noted however, that individual management areas require both substantially more or less than this average due to the particular circumstances of each area at the current time.

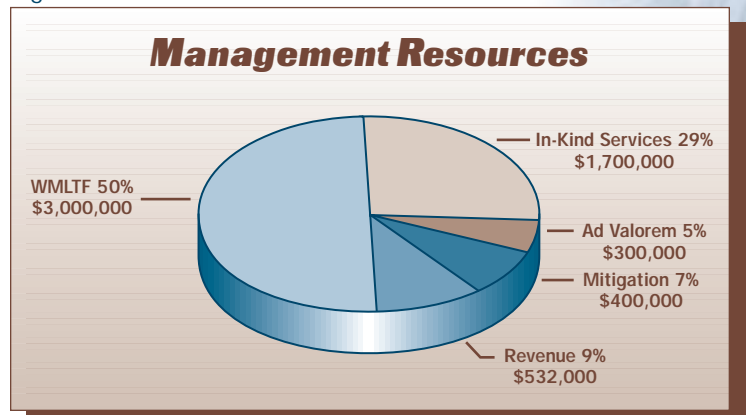
Stewardship Elements

The stewardship program involves six elements. The activities and the approximate portions of total effort denoted to each are shown in Figure S-2 on the following page.

1. Planning

Strategic—The stewardship planning unit prepares and coordinates the development of the SOR Land Acquisition and Management Plan. This group then integrates the plan with other District planning processes and the land-acquisition and management programs of various state, county, and local government agencies. The District's Land Stewardship Division works closely with the agency's Regulation Department to locate suitable off-site mitigation areas.

Figure S-1



Project Planning—The District must evaluate all potential SOR projects before they are placed on the Land Acquisition and Management Plan. Each year, a team of District professionals, under the direction of the Land Stewardship Division, rates the water and other natural resources of the proposed projects to produce the Land Acquisition and Management Plan. To date, they have evaluated more than 50 projects and have reviewed numerous project boundary modifications.

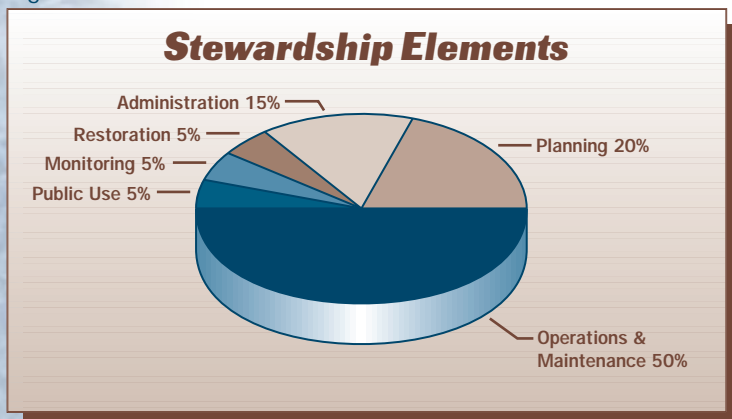
Preliminary Management Strategies and Conceptual Management Plans (CMP)—The District develops preliminary management strategies to guide initial management activities immediately after acquiring the property and before preparing more detailed plans. The conceptual management plan incorporates all relevant information about the project, including resource data, access, past and present land uses, public use potential, restoration and management needs, and goals and objectives to guide management actions. The District may prepare separate planning documents for restoration projects or substantial recreation programs. Restoration projects typically consist of hydrologic restoration but may also include upland restoration. Conceptual management plans, restoration plans, and public use plans may be produced in-house or by outside contractors.

FY 98 PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Planning

- Governing Board approved 1999 Land Acquisition and Management Plan (LAMP), including the addition of three new projects, the deletion of one, and boundary revisions to six existing projects. These changes added 19,491 acres to the District's land acquisition plan.
- Land Acquisition and Management Plan made available over Internet, resulting in considerable cost savings in printing and mailing, as well as increasing availability to the general public.
- Staff is participating in preparation of a Land Stewardship Technician curriculum and a continuing education program for natural areas professionals at Valencia Community College.
- Management reviews of five SOR projects were completed, in compliance with a 1997 legislative requirement.
- Provided individual briefings to members of Florida Legislature, explaining District's land stewardship program.

Figure S-2



Project Planning

- A forest management plan was completed by staff and a forestry consultant was contracted to conduct evaluations of forest resources at DuPuis Reserve and KICCO.
- A draft management plan of Lake Marion Creek was completed.
- Conceptual management plans for Kissimmee River Pools C and D, and Broward County portion of East Coast Buffer are underway

FY 99 OBJECTIVES

- Prepare 2000 Land Acquisition and Management Plan
- Conduct management team reviews at five management areas
- Complete management plans for Lake Marion Creek, East Coast Buffer (Broward), and Kissimmee River Pools C and D.
- Prepare less-than-fee acquisition plan for lands in Hendry and Collier Counties, south of Caloosahatchee River and east of Okaloacoochee Slough

2. Operation and Maintenance of Land Resources

The land maintenance program involves a wide range of activities to protect, maintain, and enhance the natural resources and the District's real property assets. Professional land managers, with unique skills and experience, and based in both the service centers and at District headquarters, implement the program. Major program components include:

Security and Resource Protection

An integrated program of contractual law enforcement, on-site caretakers, lessees' vigilance, and employer inspections protects the natural resources and District assets. Staff fence boundaries and/or mark them with District ownership signs. The protection program must, however, be open to appropriate public use of the lands.

Natural Resource Management

Exotic Plant Control—Includes selective application of environmentally acceptable herbicides in a manner that does not harm the natural resources.

Prescribed Burning—Periodic fire is a natural element of native Florida ecosystems. The District uses prescribed burning to reduce hazardous buildup of vegetative fuel loads, enhance wildlife habitat, and encourage restoration of native plant communities. The District burns its lands with the intent of simulating natural fire cycles for native plant communities. In addition, the District staff has initiated growing season burning to mimic the natural occurrence of lightning season fires. Prescribed burning is also an integral part of the exotic plant control program and can be used to prepare areas for hydrologic restoration.

General Maintenance of Improvements, Restoration Structures, and Public Use Facilities

The many firelines, roads, fences, culverts, houses, and sheds associated with SOR lands require general maintenance. This includes building and discing fire lines, mowing road sides, grading roads, replacing and repairing culverts, and repairing and replacing perimeter fences. Houses, barns, and sheds also require periodic maintenance and repair.

FY 98 HIGHLIGHTS

Exotic Control

- District contractors and field staff treated exotic plants on 35,000 acres

Prescribed Burning

- District field crews conducted prescribed burns on 4,000 acres in CREW, DuPuis, and Upper Lakes Basin Watershed, despite the burning ban during the summer drought
- District field crew assisted in the control of wildfires on 350 acres

Forest Management

A preliminary forest management plan was developed in 1997 with the intent of identifying District lands managed by the Land Stewardship Division that could support a sustainable, environmentally sensitive forestry program and generate revenues to offset management costs. Eleven sites were identified that met the specific environmental criteria of the plan as well as the overall goals of the SOR program. On the DuPuis Reserve, three sites totaling approximately 800 acres were chosen for selective harvesting of timber to promote forest health and restoration. Revenues of approximately \$95,000 are expected from the DuPuis harvest. Additional sites will be evaluated in the coming year.

Vegetation Management

District contractors and field crew roller chopped 1,200 acres at DuPuis in conjunction with prescribed burning to reduce vegetative fuel and restore breeding habitat for the reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally-listed endangered species.

Security

- District staff posted 35 miles of property boundary
- Florida Department of Corrections work crews fenced nearly 15 miles of project boundaries

FY 99 OBJECTIVES

Exotic Control

- Conduct initial exotic control activities on 4,000 acres
- Conduct follow-up exotic control activities on 35,000 acres

Prescribed Burning

- Conduct prescribed burns on 13,000 acres

Vegetation Management

- Conduct timber harvest on 850 acres at DuPuis Reserve
- Roller chop and mow 2,500 acres

Security

- Pursue a long-term agreement with Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to provide law enforcement on all District lands
- Develop additional opportunities for on-site occupancy by law enforcement officers
- Construct 55 miles of fence
- Post 42 miles of boundary

3. Public Use Program

The District encourages public access to and use of its lands for appropriate outdoor recreational activities, consistent with the agency's legal interest and preservation and management of the water and environmental resources and the purpose for which it was acquired.

Recreational development focuses on the provision of basic facilities for access, health and safety, and interpretation.

Special consideration is given to the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities. Where appropriate, the District considers the provision of needed facilities and services through concession contracts and/or agreements with private non-profit organizations.

These activities are described for each management unit in the District's Public Use Guide.

FY 98 PUBLIC USE HIGHLIGHTS

- Board approved putting revision of Public Use Guide (PUG) and rule on a two-year, rather than annual cycle.
- PUG was made available on Internet, which has greatly increased public availability and reduced printing and mailing costs.
- A standard public use startup package was developed, which identifies basic items for a public use program to be installed on most new properties.
- 1,700 additional acres opened to public use

FY 99 OBJECTIVES

- Develop integrated public use plan for DuPuis and Jonathan Dickinson State Park corridor
- Implement public use startup package on newly acquired SOR lands
- Develop equestrian program at Hickory Hammock
- Develop an environmental education center at DuPuis Reserve

4. Restoration

Natural features of South Florida's landscape are rapidly disappearing because of encroaching agricultural and urban development. A major thrust of the Save Our Rivers program is to protect the flowways, watersheds, and wetlands, all critical to the water resources of the District. Common disturbances to SOR lands include clearing to improve pasture and drainage. The Land Stewardship Division assesses SOR lands for hydrologic and environmental restoration needs and recommends how to correct those impacts. Restoration projects may be funded, designed, constructed, and maintained by the District, by developers as mitigation, or by a combination of methods.

Habitat enhancement on SOR lands includes a combination of hydrologic restoration in wetlands, prescribed burning to improve forage for wildlife and maintain native plant communities, and control of exotic vegetation.

A major stewardship task is to return SOR lands as close to their original natural state, hydrologically, as possible. This improves groundwater storage in wetlands, water quality by slowing runoff, and habitat for fish and wildlife. The SOR program is conducting several small hydrologic restorations, but the primary focus is on the nationally significant program to restore the Kissimmee River/Lake Okeechobee/Everglades Ecosystem. Several SOR acquisition projects are contributing directly to the effort to restore and protect the vital water and natural resources of South Florida.

FY 98 RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented one mitigation bank project and initiated permitting on the other.
- Developed standard off-site mitigation procedures. Osceola County portion of Shingle Creek is viewed as best opportunity for upland restoration. District staff is trying to acquire suitable lands in conjunction with Osceola County and Florida Communities Trust.

FY 99 RESTORATION OBJECTIVES

- Reforest 300 acres with South Florida slash pine
- Restore firelines at Snell Creek that were plowed to control summer wildfires; consider scrub restoration
- Pursue reintroduction of red-cockaded woodpeckers at DuPuis
- Design upland restoration project
- Acquisition of lands in CREW and Pennsuco during FY 98 and FY 99 will support restoration work in FY 99.
- Continue mitigation bank development with CREW and Loxahatchee banks
- Conduct acquisition and exotic removal in offsite regional mitigation areas: CREW and Pennsuco

5. Evaluation of Management Activities (Monitoring)

A major objective of the Save Our Rivers program is to restore or preserve the natural condition of SOR land resources. The Land Stewardship Division has an established monitoring program to evaluate its management and restoration activities, including hydrologic restoration, prescribed burning, and exotic vegetation control. Sample data is stored on GIS databases for future analysis that provides feedback to improve the efficiency of management activities.

FY 98 HIGHLIGHTS

- Monitoring of restoration projects continued at DuPuis, KICCO, Johnson Island, and Micco Landing
- Resource inventories and community mapping completed on 42,000 acres in Upper Lakes Basin, CREW, and Okaloacoochee Slough using outside contractors

FY 99 OBJECTIVES

- Prepare baseline inventories for conservation easements using outside contractors
- Provide financial assistance for study of rare bat colony near Reedy Creek
- Provide financial assistance for study to restore improved pasture to longleaf pine flatwoods
- Monitor and Evaluate prescribed burning and exotic control management activities

6. Administration of Land Management Service Contracts

Contractual agreements for management services and leases on District land are an important part of the stewardship program. The program currently administers more than 90 contracts, agreements, leases, and reservations. The program prepares contract specifications, negotiates terms, and monitors compliance. Managing the number and diversity of these contracts is a substantial task.

FY 98 Performance Measures

Acres under lease	13,846
Employees	6
Contracts executed	27
Cost avoided	\$276,920
Revenue generation	\$433,000
Annual program budget	(\$411,000)
Total Positive Contribution	\$298,920

FY 98 HIGHLIGHTS

- Executed management agreement with DEP Division of Recreation and Parks on 45,000 acres in Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem
- Executed management agreements with GFC on 18,000 acres in Lake Marion Creek and Pool A of the Kissimmee River

FY 99 OBJECTIVES

- Execute management agreements with DEP, Palm Beach County, and GFC on Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem, Loxahatchee Slough, and Pal-Mar, respectively
- Encourage grazing lessees to provide maintenance services (fencing, mowing, roller chopping, exotic plant control) in lieu of payment
- Complete report that summarizes grazing program and includes recommendations for properties suitable for future leases

Interim Property Management Program

1. Background

The Land Stewardship Program is responsible for properties ultimately planned for use as stormwater treatment areas, water management/storage areas, or buffer lands (East Coast Buffer) between the Everglades and urban development. For the most part, their environmental value is low. These lands will eventually be used as surface water storage, groundwater recharge, or filter marshes. They are not designated for environmental enhancement, restoration, or preservation, and are not proposed for recreational or other public uses. During the interim period while acquisition, planning, design, and construction are taking place, the Land Management Division has developed a management approach that protects the resource and minimizes management expense.

In 1997 a new program known as *Interim Property Management* was developed to manage the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA's), Water Preserve Management Areas (WPA, WMA) and East Coast Buffer lands. Redirecting four existing positions with expertise in real estate, engineering, finance, property management, and business administration staffed this initiative.

2. Mission

This program is tasked to develop strategies and implement plans to responsibly improve the economic use of STA, WPA and East Coast Buffer properties during the interim planning period. Its purpose is to reduce management costs or increase revenue from non-government sources that will offset land management, maintenance, and resource protection expenses.

3. Results

During the program's first year of operation land leases or management agreements were initiated for 13,846 acres. The terms of the leases allow interim agriculture uses that require best management practices, exotic removal or infestation prevention, a security presence, and return of the property to local tax rolls. The program has resulted in continued local agriculture employment and cost avoidance by the District of approximately \$20.00 per acre (\$276,920), as well as the generation of \$433,000 in property leases which further offset SOR land management expenses.

The Interim Property Management program has completed one management agreement with a local Soil and Water Conservation District, in compliance with HB1 119, and is very close to completing a second agreement.

Implementation Strategies

The District employs a diversified strategy to implement its land stewardship program. The ever-increasing size and complexity of the program's management needs require this approach. The foundations of this program are: (1) a core professional management group, (2) internal contracting, (3) cooperative management agreements, and (4) alternative funding.

1. Core Professional Management Group

A select number of District employees plan and manage the functions of the land stewardship program. This group includes professional land managers assigned to service centers. These employees have specific geographical responsibilities for comprehensive management in their respective areas. They also have special areas of management expertise that they share with other managers throughout the agency.

A highly trained field crew supports the professional staff by performing diversified tasks throughout the District. Crew members prepare and execute the fire-management plans for each area. They also control exotic plants and conduct general operations and maintenance services, as time permits.

District staff carries out the planning functions previously described and evaluates and monitors the District's natural resources and the effectiveness of the management program.

2. Contractual Services

Personnel limitations and an ever-increasing land base are limiting the District's ability to provide the necessary management functions on all of its SOR lands. Private contractors are being used to prepare resource inventories, to treat exotic vegetation, construct fences and do roller chopping and mowing. When available, District field stations provide general operations and maintenance support in the form of roadside mowing, road maintenance, and culvert and ditch repair. The Land Stewardship program relies on the Vegetation Management Division to coordinate large exotic treatment jobs.

The District's land acquisition efforts in water resource projects such as Frog Pond/L-31 N, East Coast Buffer and the Stormwater Treatment Areas require interim stewardship of thousands of acres of agricultural lands that will later be converted to stormwater attenuation areas and filtration marshes. The District's Land Management Division (LMD) has taken responsibility for these areas and has leased out many of them for revenue-generation agricultural uses until such time as they come on-line for their final intended use. LMD also manages and disposes of real property assets that are not integral to the SOR mission.

3. Cooperative Management Agreements

The District has numerous land management service agreements, primarily with other local, state, and federal agencies. They vary from complete management responsibility to specific services and may or may not be District-funded.

There are several advantages to these agreements that include the following:

a. Expertise—Other agencies provide knowledge, experience, and capabilities not available to the District. It is more cost effective to use this expertise from other agencies than to develop it.

b. Location—In several cases, local governments or other agencies are more conveniently located to provide essential services than the District.

c. Continuity of Program—District land adjacent to other public lands can be managed as part of the larger ownership.

d. Local Benefits—When people in a particular area almost exclusively use some District lands, it is appropriate for local programs to manage these lands because they are the ones who directly benefit.

4. Alternative Funding

Since 1989, the District's policy has been to pay for SOR stewardship functions out of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The policy restricts the use of District ad valorem taxes to administrative and general support services. The District has augmented these funds in several ways:

a. In-Kind Services—As previously noted, several management agreements are at no cost to the District for either complete management services or selected services such as surveillance and law enforcement. More than 30% (85,000 acres) of District-owned land is managed entirely at no cost by state and local partners.

b. Revenue Agreements/Leases—The District has various land-use leases that it obtained with the land purchase or that it developed to use renewable resources. These include cattle grazing, vegetable farming and sod farming on lands that are under interim management. In addition to the revenue generated, leases provide the on-site management of 10% (29,000 Acres) of District Ownership.

c. User Fees and Volunteers—User groups are willing to contribute in-kind services. The District has good experiences with several user groups on developing and maintaining trails, trailheads, and primitive camping areas. The District collects user fees at the DuPuis Reserve to offset expenses of public use facilities at that site.

d. Mitigation Funding—Acquisition, preservation, and enhancement or restoration, and management of the East Coast Buffer, CREW, Shingle Creek, Upper Lakes Basin Watershed and Dupuis Reserve projects has been and will continue to be partially funded with mitigation money generated in accordance with Section 373.414 (1) (b) 1., F.S. The Land Stewardship staff has developed detailed plans for the use of these funds to restore, preserve and manage substantial acreage within the above listed projects.

1999 Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan Schedule

April 30, 1999	Deadline for new project/boundary revision applications
July 14, 1999	Governing Board Workshop on new projects/boundary changes
Sept. 9, 1999	Governing Board public hearing to adopt 2000 Land Acquisition and Management Plan

ACQUISITION SUMMARY

Acquisition from the beginning of the Save Our Rivers program in 1981 through September 1997 totaled 330,180 acres of land (includes lands purchased by others within Save Our Rivers project boundaries).

Acquisition during the 1998 Plan period (October 1997 - September 30, 1998) added approximately 28,557 acres. See the table below for details of which lands were purchased during the reporting period. These acquisitions bring the Save Our Rivers program total for September 30, 1998, to 358,737 acres.

PROJECT	Acres	Kissimmee River and Lakes	
8.5 Square Mile	163.91	Kissimmee River	6,047.07
C-111 Southern Glades/Model Lands		KCOL	247.52
C-111	1,096.4	L-31N	1,250.15
Southern Glades/Model Lands		North Fork St. Lucie River	37.42
District	1,677.60	West Jupiter Wetlands (Pal-Mar)	15.75
County (Miami-Dade)	1,239.85	Stormwater Treatment Areas	12,082.65
CREW	2,949.31	Ten Mile Creek	728.14
East Coast Buffer	432.98	Upper Lakes Watershed Basin	33.18
Indian River Lagoon	397.37	Water Conservation Area	156.53

ACQUISITION PLAN CHANGES

1998 Changes to 1999 Land Acquisition and Management Plan

In 1998, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board authorized the addition of three new projects to the Land Acquisition and Management Plan, as well as boundary modifications to six existing projects.

NEW PROJECTS	Acres
Barfield Farms	1,367
Biscayne Coastal Wetlands	2,241
New Palm Dairy	1,900
PROJECT ADDITIONS (Boundary Modifications)	Acres
CREW	2,560
Everglades Agricultural Area	2,554
Kissimmee River Upper Basin	2,282
North Fork St. Lucie River	1,000
Okaloacoochee Slough	5,490
Twelve Mile Slough	1,316
PROJECT DELETIONS	Acres
Lake Lizzie	1,100